



**NORTH DAKOTA**  
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **State Health Department Releases “Healthy North Dakota Highlights” Fact Sheet on Smoking**

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health and the *Healthy North Dakota* Coalition today released a fact sheet titled “Healthy North Dakota Highlights – Smoking,” according to Melissa Olson, *Healthy North Dakota* director. The document is the first in a series of fact sheets that focus on health issues in the state.

“Each fact sheet in the series will highlight health issues in North Dakota and will include state-specific statistics about risk behaviors, as well as strategies to meet these challenges,” Olson said. “Anyone interested in health information specific to North Dakota will find these documents useful.”

“Healthy North Dakota Highlights – Smoking” focuses on the risk behavior that is the number-one killer of North Dakotans. Each year, smoking kills 860 North Dakotans and costs the state about \$351 million in direct medical costs and lost productivity.

Future fact sheets will focus on health topics such as diabetes, heart disease, arthritis and binge drinking. Statistics presented in the fact sheets come from the North Dakota Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, a process that surveys North Dakota adults about a wide variety of behaviors important to staying healthy.

The “Healthy North Dakota Highlights – Smoking” fact sheet is available on the Department of Health website at [www.ndhealth.gov](http://www.ndhealth.gov) (click on “Publications”) or on the department’s press room website at [www.nddohpressroom.gov](http://www.nddohpressroom.gov) (click on “Fact Sheets”).

For more information, contact Melissa Olson, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.2372.

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